

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 are currently pending in the present application. No new matter is added by the amendments.

Claims 1 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In particular, the Office Action asserts that it is not clear how the female element is constructed from fibers, what the electrical components are, what the contact area is and how it structurally relates to the female element. The Office Action also asserts that it is not clear what the hub and controller are or do, and their relationship to the contact area. It is further asserted in the Office Action that it is not clear how the contact members pivot or what their relationship is to the hub and controller.

Applicants respectfully disagree and assert that one of ordinary skill in the art would be capable of making and using the invention based on the written description. For instance, the specification makes clear one non-limiting example of the fiber construction of the female connection:

[0028] The textile construction of the at least one female element 20 can preferably be fashioned from a variety of natural and/or manmade materials and/or any combination of materials using any known conventional method, such as for example, weaving, sewing or knitting metalized foils, conductive polymers, graphitized/metalized fibers, silicon, cotton, nylon, lycra, spandex, neoprene, polyester, and/or a rubber extruded fibers.

As another instance, the specification makes clear one non-limiting example of the structure of the contact areas:

[0025] Preferably, the at least one socket 21 has one or more contact areas 23 associated therewith. Preferably, the one or more contact areas 23 are each, at least in part, conductive. More preferably, the conductive part of the one or more contact areas

23 is on an inner surface 24 of the socket 21. Even more preferably, the conductive part of the one or more contact areas 23 is along the periphery of the inner surface 24 to facilitate an effective electrical connection with the conductive part of the one or more contact members 11 of the at least one male element 10.

As yet another instance, the specification makes clear one non-limiting example of the structural relationship between the contact areas and the socket:

[0025] . . . For example, the one or more contact members 11 of the at least one male element 10, when in the second state 15 as shown in FIG. 3, can be engaged with the at least one socket 21 of the at least one female element 20. Then, once engaged, the one or more contact members 11 preferably can, when in the first state 14 as shown in FIG. 2, mechanically interact with the at least one socket 21 and/or electrically interact with the at least one socket 21 via the one or more contact members 11 and the one or more contact areas 23. Other configurations and/or arrangements may also be used in order to accomplish any of a variety of desirable types of connection.

As yet a further instance, the specification makes clear another non-limiting example of the structural relationship between the contact areas and the socket:

[0027] The at least one female element 20, the at least one socket 21 and/or the one or more contact areas 23 can preferably have any shape, size and/or configuration suitable for cooperating with any corresponding male element 10 and to facilitate a safe and secure mechanical and/or electrical connection among and/or between various electronic devices/systems. For example, the at least one socket 21 can be collapsible such that when disengaged from the at least one male element 10, the one or more contact members 11, and/or the at least one hub member 12, the at least one socket 21 is hidden or substantially unnoticeable. In addition, the at least one socket 21 can preferably have one or more fasteners 25 for, such as for example, a Velcro arrangement, or a popper arrangement, or any similar type of securing arrangement sufficient to selectively hold the at least one socket 21 closed to prevent inadvertent access thereto.

For instance, the specification makes clear one non-limiting example of the construction of the hub and controller:

[0021] Preferably, the one or more contact members 11 are each, at least in part, conductive and can be adjustable. For example, the one or more contact members 11 can be pivotally connected with the at least one hub member 12 so as to be pivotally adjusted between at least a first state 14 such as that shown in FIG. 2, and a second state 15 such as that shown in FIG. 3. Other configurations and/or arrangements of the one or more contact members 11 may also be used in order to accomplish a desired type of connection.

[0022] Further, the at least one hub member 12 can have at least one controller 16 for influencing the adjustment of the one or more contact members 11. Preferably, the at least one controller 16 is a bias control capable of managing a spring bias associated with the one or more contact members 11. For example, one or more contact members 11 can be biased to innately retract apart. Then, preferably the at least one controller 16 can operate to either directly or indirectly restrain the one or more contact members 11 against the innate bias thereof and/or, conversely, to directly or indirectly release the one or more contact members 11 from such restraint. It is noted that the restraint and/or release of the one or more contact members 11 may be accomplished incrementally in two or more steps, and/or immediately in a single step in order to accommodate any of a variety of different connection types.

As another instance, the specification makes clear one non-limiting example of the structural relationship between the hub, controller and the contact areas:

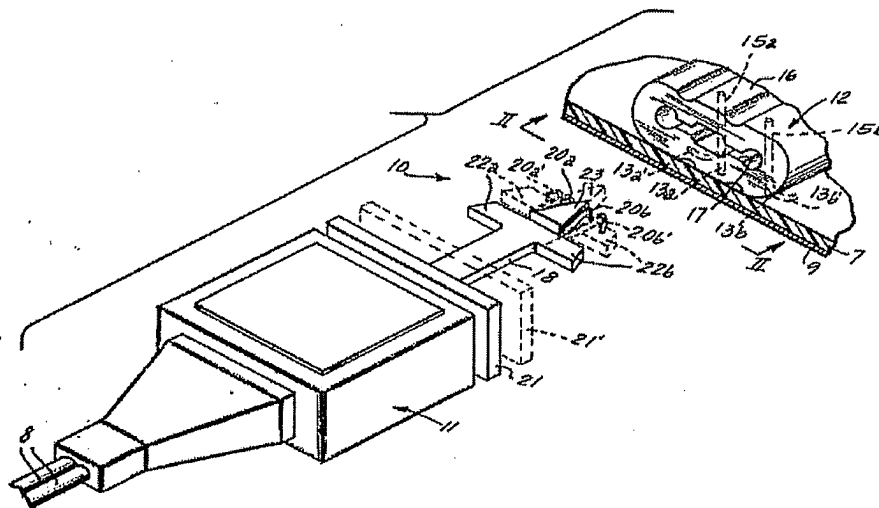
[0022] Further, the at least one hub member 12 can have at least one controller 16 for influencing the adjustment of the one or more contact members 11. Preferably, the at least one controller 16 is a bias control capable of managing a spring bias associated with the one or more contact members 11. For example, one or more contact members 11 can be biased to innately retract apart. Then, preferably the at least one controller 16 can operate to either directly or indirectly restrain the one or more contact members 11 against the innate bias thereof and/or, conversely, to directly or indirectly release the one or more contact members 11 from such restraint. It is noted that the restraint and/or release of the one or more contact members 11 may be accomplished incrementally in two or more steps, and/or immediately in a single step in order to accommodate any of a variety of different connection types.

[0023] The at least one male element 10, the at least one hub member 16 and/or the one or more contact members 11 preferably can be shaped, sized and/or configured to cooperate with any corresponding female element 20 to facilitate a safe and secure mechanical and/or electrical connection among and/or between various electronic devices/systems.

As such, applicants respectfully assert that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able of making and/or using applicants invention as described in the specification and claimed in claims 1-18. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furey et al. in view of Kamijo. In particular, the Office Action asserts that Furey describes a female element being fashioned from a flexible construction. The Office Action concedes that Furey does not describe use of a fiber construction but asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Furey by replacing the Furey foam/foil with the Kamijo fabric or by replacing the Kamijo clips with the Furey connectors. Applicants assert that Furey teaches away from the modification as suggested by the Office Action.

Furey is directed to a skin-contacting electrode for a patient in a medical diagnostic system. (Furey col. 1, lines 5-9). The Furey device is intended to overcome perceived shortcomings of accidental disconnections by the prior art. (Furey col. 1, lines 49-52). In an effort to achieve this objective, Furey utilizes a robust mechanical connection that includes a pair of contact hooks that engage pillars which are locked in place by a spring loaded telescoping member on the cable connector. (Furey col. 1, lines 63-67). Moreover, while the Office Action describes the female element as being fashioned from a flexible connection, Furey does not disclose this feature and appears to depict a rigid tunneled structure 12:



Claims 1-20 include the use of a flexible fiber construction for the female element. Furey teaches away from use of this feature of claims 1-20.

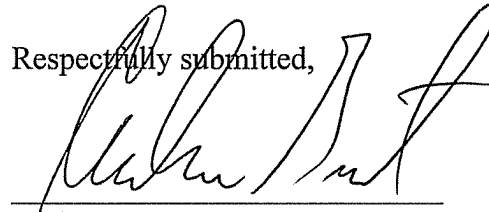
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, the drawings and all claims presented in this application are currently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

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Respectfully submitted,



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